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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/815,735	03/23/2001	Takashi Ejiri	4415-15	6221

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EXAMINER

CHAMBERS, A MICHAEL

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3753

DATE MAILED: 03/17/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No. 09/815,735	Applicant(s) Ejiri
Examiner A. Michael Chambers	Art Unit 3753

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12/23/02.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above, claim(s) 16-21 is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-5, 11, 12, 15, 22, and 23 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) 6-10, 13, and 14 is/are objected to.

8) Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some* c) None of:

- Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
- Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
- Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). 426

6) Other:

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DETAILED ACTION

1. This application has been examined. Two informational disclosure documents filed July 15, 2002, and December 26, 2002, have been considered. Claims 1-23 are pending. This action is in response to a restriction requirement filed December 23, 2002. Applicants' election of the invention of Group I (claims 1-15, 22, 23), without traverse, in paper number 7 is acknowledged. Claims 16-21, drawn to claims of Group II, are withdrawn from consideration. An action on the merits of claims 1-15, 22 and 23 is included in this Office action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 22 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bergeron.

Note the pressure responsive valve actuator including an indicator member..

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Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 148 USPQ 459, that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or unobviousness.

6. Claims 1-4 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese document 11-82804 (figure 1) in view of Bergeron. As stated by applicant in the specification of the instant application on page 17, lines 23+ discloses the claimed invention except for the recitation of a “visual checking member” integral with said “working rod” as taught by Bergeron. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the Japanese Document to include a “visual checking

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member", as taught by Bergeron in order to provide a visual indication of the pressure actuated valve of the Japanese Document. .

7. Claims 5, 11-12, 22 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese document 11-82804 (figure 1) in view of Bergeron.

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. .

Allowable Subject Matter

9. Claims 6-10, 13, and 14, drawn to particular detachable actuator structure, are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

.10. Any inquiry concerning this communication communications from the Examiner should be directed to A. Michael Chambers whose telephone number is (703) 308-1016 (FAX (703) 308-7765).



A. MICHAEL CHAMBERS
PRIMARY EXAMINER
ART UNIT 3753

amc
March 7, 2003